



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 366

DATE: February 20, 2008

SPONSOR: Administration and Delegate Rudolph, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Ways and Means and Economic Matters

CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger

POSITION: Support

BRAC Community Enhancement Act

Montgomery County supports Senate Bill 204, which establishes a system of incentives to target investment to areas of the State in need of redevelopment and revitalization. These incentives are specifically tailored for the military base consolidations that will occur in Maryland over the next six years, consistent with the 2005 BRAC recommendations, and will result in the creation of anywhere from 40,000 to 60,000 new jobs from the transfer of military personnel and defense contracting.

Ft. Meade and Aberdeen are the clear focus of this Administration proposal. These two locations will draw thousands of military personnel, defense contractors, and their families from outside of the State. While this creates challenges, it also creates opportunities, including the ability to plan for the growth and direct some of it into areas that have existing capacity but are economically depressed. These are excellent public policy objectives that ultimately benefit everyone.

Montgomery County is home to the State's third largest BRAC action, which will establish the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center by integrating the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in the District of Columbia at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. The consolidation will result in the movement of about 2,500 medical and non-medical personnel already living within the area and a doubling in the number of patient visits from 500,000 to one million per year. This BRAC action will take place in an already built out urban area where transit oriented development and other growth management tools are well established concepts. For these reasons, the provisions of Senate Bill 204 are not necessarily focused on BRAC Bethesda, although there are provisions that as plans develop, may offer potential to help ensure the success of the new Medical Center.
